CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA
DECEMBER 15, 2020 - CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

INVOCATION
City Attorney Watson gave the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Councilmember Moats led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER
Mayor Patino called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL:
MEMBERS PRESENT:
Mayor Alice Patino, Councilmember Mike Cordero, Councilmember Michael Moats, and Councilmember Gloria Soto.

ABSENT: Councilmember Etta Waterfield

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:
City Manager Jason Stilwell, City Attorney Thomas Watson, Fire Chief Leonard Champion, Chief of Police Phillip Hansen, Director of Finance Mary Harvey, Chief Information Officer Jeffrey Marecic, Director of Public Works/City Engineer Kevin McCune, Director of Community Development Chuen Ng, Transit Services Manager Austin O'Dell, Recreation Services Manager Dennis Smitherman, Director of Utilities Shad Springer, Solid Waste Manager Heriberto Cantu, Public Information Manager Mark van de Kamp, Chief Deputy City Clerk Rhonda White, and Deputy City Clerk Beth Cleary

1 CEREMONIAL ITEMS/COMMENDATIONS

A. Councilmember Moats presented a retirement resolution to Fire Chief Leonard Champion for his years of outstanding service to the City of Santa Maria and congratulating him on his retirement. Chief Champion accepted the resolution remotely. He also received a plaque in honor of his time with the City.

Action: Adopt a Resolution commending Fire Chief Leonard Champion for his years of outstanding service to the City of Santa Maria and congratulating him on his retirement.
Moved by Councilmember Moats, seconded by Councilmember Cordero.
Motion carried. Absent: Councilmember Waterfield. Adopted as Resolution No. 2020-130. 4-0.

B. Councilmember Cordero presented a Retirement Resolution to Police Chief Phillip Hansen for his years of outstanding service to the City of Santa Maria and congratulating him on his retirement. Chief Hansen commented on his time with the City and received a plaque in honor of his service.

Action: Adopt a Resolution commending Police Chief Phillip Hansen for his years of outstanding service to the City of Santa Maria and congratulating him on his retirement.
Moved by Councilmember Cordero, seconded by Councilmember Moats.
Motion carried. Absent: Councilmember Waterfield. Adopted as Resolution No. 2020-131. 4-0.

C. Councilmember Soto presented a Retirement Resolution to Transit Services Manager Austin O'Dell for his years of outstanding service to the City of Santa Maria and congratulating him on his retirement. Mr. O'Dell made his parting comments via video.

Action: Adopt a Resolution commending Transit Services Manager Austin O'Dell for his years of outstanding service to the City of Santa Maria and congratulating him on his retirement.
Moved by Councilmember Soto, seconded by Councilmember Cordero.
Motion carried. Absent: Councilmember Waterfield. Adopted as Resolution No. 2020-132. 4-0.

D. **CERTIFICATE OF CANVASS OF GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION.** The City Council received the Certification of the 2020 General Presidential Municipal Election by the County Clerk-Recorder, declared the results, and followed standard procedures to reorganize the City Council.

Action: Adopt a Resolution reciting the outcome of the General Presidential Municipal Election held on November 3, 2020, in conjunction with the Statewide General Election, and accepting the County Clerk's certification and results of the official canvass.
Moved by Councilmember Cordero, seconded by Councilmember Moats.
Motion carried. Absent: Councilmember Waterfield. Adopted as Resolution No. 2020-133. 4-0.

E. **COMMENDATION:** Mayor Patino presented outgoing Councilmember Moats with a proclamation for his service on the City Council. Dr. Moats recalled highlights from his four years on the City Council and stepped down from the dais.

F. **OATHS OF OFFICE.** Deputy City Clerk Cleary administered the Oath of Office to re-elected Mayor Alice Patino, re-elected Councilmember Mike Cordero, and newly elected Councilmember Carlos Escobedo, and presented each with a Certificate of Election.

G. **REORGANIZATION OF THE CITY COUNCIL.** Mayor Patino, Councilmember Cordero, and Councilmember Escobedo each took their seats at the dais and took the opportunity to say a few words.

ROLL CALL:
MEMBERS PRESENT:
Mayor Alice Patino, Councilmember Mike Cordero, Councilmember Carlos Escobedo, and Councilmember Gloria Soto.

ABSENT: Councilmember Etta Waterfield

H. **LIGHTS, SIGHTS, AND HOLIDAY NIGHTS HOLIDAY DECORATION CONTEST.** The City Council received a presentation of the 24th Annual Lights, Sights, and Holiday Nights Holiday Decoration Contest award winners. Recreation Services Manager Smitherman gave the presentation. This year's winners were: Elizabeth Houser (Best Decorated Rookie Resident); The Price Family (Country Christmas); Alex and Gloria Nanalis (Home Spun Holiday); and Christian Cortez (California Dreamin').

2 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Public Comment was made regarding Item 4B on the agenda (Office of Independent Review Report on the Police Department). Written correspondence was received from Kayna Monette, Hazel Davalos, Rebeca Garcia, and Lauren Wanlass, asking that the City's new Police Chief be hired through a transparent process utilizing public input. Hazel Davalos, Cliff Solomon, Beth Sweetwater, Nadia Abushanab, Pam Gates, Peter Flores, Jacqueline Mendoza, Yesenia Beas, Chuy C., and Jerry Schmidt each spoke and reiterated the same.

City Manager Stilwell commented that staff is actively pursuing a qualified candidate through an internal promotional process for the position of Police Chief; and the professionalism of the Department, as well as the safety of the community, continue to be the top priority in the process.

3 CONSENT CALENDAR

Relating to Item 3B (Minutes of the 12/1/2020 Council meeting), Councilmember Escobedo indicated that he would abstain from voting.

Consent Calendar Items 3A-3M (except Item 3B) were approved as presented, including the adoption of Resolution Nos. 2020-134, 2020-135, 2020-136, 2020-137, 2020-138, and 2020-139. The recorded vote appears with each item below.

Consent Calendar Item 3B (Minutes) was approved under a separate vote. The recorded vote appears with this item below.

A. Waive the reading in full of all Ordinances and Resolutions. Ordinances on the Consent Agenda will be adopted by the same vote cast at the first meeting, unless City Council indicates otherwise.

Action: Readings waived.
Moved by Councilmember Cordero, seconded by Councilmember Soto.
Motion carried. Absent: Councilmember Waterfield. 4-0.

B. Approve the Minutes of the regular City Council meeting of December 1, 2020.

Action: Minutes approved as presented.
Moved by Councilmember Cordero, seconded by Councilmember Soto.
Motion carried. Abstain: Councilmember Escobedo; Absent: Councilmember Waterfield. 3-0.

C. Consider the request by the County of Santa Barbara to the Governor to create a Central Coast Region, comprised of the Counties of Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Ventura, and to release the Central Coast Region from the Regional Stay at Home Order, provided that intensive care unit capacity remains above 15 percent; and authorize the Mayor to sign a letter to the Governor consistent with this request.

Action: Letter requesting the release of the Central Coast Region from the Regional Stay at Home Order approved.
Moved by Councilmember Cordero, seconded by Councilmember Soto.
Motion carried. Absent: Councilmember Waterfield. 4-0.

D. Adopt an Electronic Communications Policy; agree to strictly adhere to the guidelines and policies presented within the Policy; and direct the Chief Deputy City Clerk to provide copies to all relevant City Council-appointed Commissions and Committees.

Action: Electronic Communications Policy approved.
Moved by Councilmember Cordero, seconded by Councilmember Soto.
Motion carried. Absent: Councilmember Waterfield. Adopted as Resolution No. 2020-133. 4-0.

E. Payment of Warrants. Ordered ratified subject to having been certified as being in conformity with the budget and having been approved for payment by the Director of Finance.

Action: Warrants ratified.
Moved by Councilmember Cordero, seconded by Councilmember Soto.
Motion carried. Absent: Councilmember Waterfield. 4-0.

F. Payment of Payroll. Ordered ratified subject to having been certified by the proper Department Directors, as shown on records on file in the Department of Finance, and having been approved for payment by the Director of Finance.

Action: Payroll ratified.
Moved by Councilmember Cordero, seconded by Councilmember Soto.
Motion carried. Absent: Councilmember Waterfield. 4-0.

G. Receive, review, and file the Growth Mitigation Annual and Five-Year Compliance reports.

Action: Growth Mitigation and Five-Year Compliance reports were received and filed.
Moved by Councilmember Cordero, seconded by Councilmember Soto.
Motion carried. Absent: Councilmember Waterfield. 4-0.

H. Adopt a Resolution approving the establishment of angle parking and no stopping zones on West Cypress Street, between South Depot Street and South Pine Street.

Action: Angled parking on West Cypress Street approved.
Moved by Councilmember Cordero, seconded by Councilmember Soto.
Motion carried. Absent: Councilmember Waterfield. Adopted as Resolution No. 2020-134. 4-0.

I. Adopt a Resolution establishing no stopping zones on Hanson Way and White Court.

Action: No stopping zones on Hanson Way and White Court approved.
Moved by Councilmember Cordero, seconded by Councilmember Soto.
Motion carried. Absent: Councilmember Waterfield. Adopted as Resolution No. 2020-135. 4-0.

J. Adopt a Resolution approving the establishment of limited time parking on Aviation Way and Fairway Drive.

Action: Limited time parking on Aviation Way and Fairway Drive approved.
Moved by Councilmember Cordero, seconded by Councilmember Soto.
Motion carried. Absent: Councilmember Waterfield. Adopted as Resolution No. 2020-136. 4-0.

K. Adopt a Resolution approving a reimbursement agreement with Halsell Builders/School Mill Investors, LLC and the City of Santa Maria for offsite sanitary sewer improvements.

Action: Reimbursement Agreement with Halsell Builders/School Mill Investors, LLC approved.
Moved by Councilmember Cordero, seconded by Councilmember Soto.
Motion carried. Absent: Councilmember Waterfield. Adopted as Resolution No. 2020-137. 4-0.

L. Adopt a Resolution authorizing the execution of a Work Order with Pacific Gas and Electric Company for Sustainable Turnkey Program - Implementation Project 3, Phase I (Landfill Flare).

Action: Work Order with PG&E for Sustainable Turnkey Program - Implementation Project 3 approved.
Moved by Councilmember Cordero, seconded by Councilmember Soto.
Motion carried. Absent: Councilmember Waterfield. Adopted as Resolution No. 2020-138. 4-0.

M. Adopt a Resolution recertifying the City of Santa Maria Sewer System Management Plan.

Action: Recertification of Sewer System Management Plan approved.
Moved by Councilmember Cordero, seconded by Councilmember Soto.
Motion carried. Absent: Councilmember Waterfield. Adopted as Resolution No. 2020-139. 4-0.

4 REGULAR BUSINESS

A. **NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM.** This item was continued to the next regular meeting of the City Council scheduled for January 5, 2021.

B. **OFFICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW (OIR) REPORT.** The City Council received a presentation from Michael Gennaco and Julie Ruhlin of the Office of Independent Review Group on the results of the 2020 Police Department Audit.

Public input
In addition to the public comment received earlier in the evening, written communications were received from Kathy Sharum and David Dennis encouraging the City Council to engage community members in the hiring process of the new Chief of Police. Mr. Dennis also suggested a continued focus on gender equity within the Police Department.

Action: Report was received and filed.

REPORT BY CITY MANAGER

City Manager Stilwell reported that the next regular City Council meeting would be January 5, 2021. Items on the agenda would include a cooperative agreement for the new interchange on Broadway and 101; the Appointments to outside Boards; and a sidewalk vendor ordinance. He also announced that Deputy Fire Chief, Todd Tuggle, would be the Interim Fire Chief until further notice.

ORAL REPORTS OF COUNCILMEMBERS AND OFFICERS (INCLUDING AB1234 REPORTS)

Councilmember Cordero reported he attended the re-opening of Russell Park.

Councilmember Soto reported she attended the Airport District Meeting; the Latinx and Indigenous Migrant COVID-19 Response Task Force Meeting; and a meeting with the newly formed group Mi Gente, Nuestra Salud.

Councilmember Escobedo reported he attended the re-opening of Russell Park.

Mayor Patino reported she attended a conference call for a Legislative Briefing; a Mayors and City Managers meeting; the opening of Russell Park; the Quarterly Schools Meeting; a couple of Rotary meetings; the State of the County of Santa Barbara presentation; and the Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley Coalition Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business before the City Council, Mayor Patino declared the City Council meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Approved at a regular meeting on January 5, 2021.

M. Beth Cleary, CMC
Deputy City Clerk and ex officio Clerk
of the City Council

ATTEST:

M. Beth Cleary, CMC
Deputy City Clerk

Alice M. Patino
Mayor of the City of Santa Maria